#59

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LadyLike

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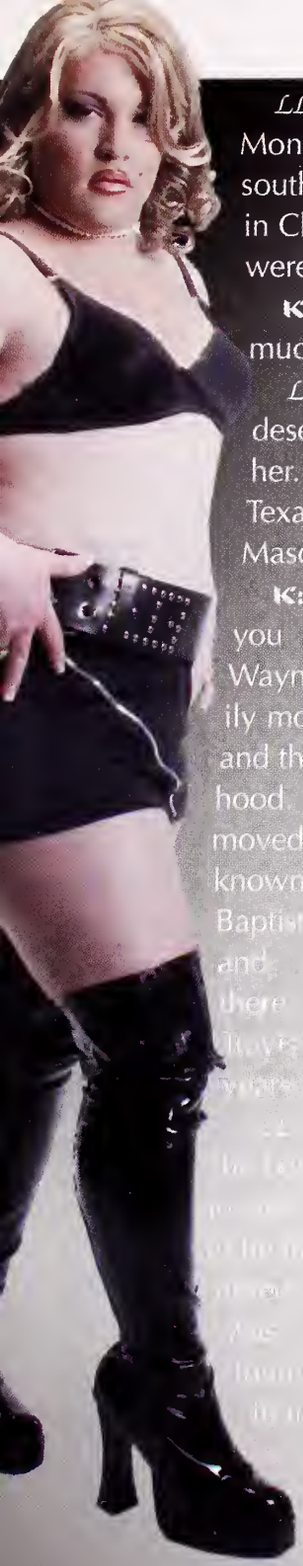
Kennidi

Age: 24
Profession: Hair and Makeup artist for Aveda
Residence: Chicago, IL
Eye color: Dark Brown
Hair color: Multi-colored (Blonde, Brown, Black)
Height: 5'7"
Weight: A woman never tells her weight... too much silicone to give the right size.

Measurements: 38B-30-36
Dress size: 13
Shoe size: 10
Favorite movie: Pretty Woman, Soldier's Girl, Stonewall
Favorite TV show: Simple Life 2, Newlyweds, Trading Spaces, What Not to Wear.
Favorite music: Pop, 80's, Classic Rock, R&B, and Country
Favorite color: Pink and Green
Favorite perfume: Gucci Rush and Versace Baby Jeans
Favorite makeup: MAC
Favorite lipstick: MAC Lip Glass
Likes: Reading, writing, drawing, performing, watching theater, parks, beach, art, museums, masculine men, average guys, honest guys, and hanging out with friends.
Dislikes: Dishonest people, seafood, sci-fi and people who can't drive!



LL: This issue we welcome Kennidi Monroe as our Profile Girl. Kennidi is a southern lady from Texas who now lives in Chicago. Hi Kennidi! I'm so glad you were able to chat with us today.

K: It's a pleasure. Thank you so much for asking me.

LL: Well, we know a girl who deserves to be a Profile when we see her. Let's get right into it. You hail from Texas but you started out north of the Mason/Dixon line, didn't you?

K: Yes, the lovely Kennidi H. Monroe you see before you was born Travis Wayne Bowsher, in Lima, Ohio. My family moved to Houston right [illegible] and that's where I spent most of [illegible] hood. Right before [illegible] moved to a small town [illegible] known as Weller. It was [illegible] Baptist-country [illegible] and [illegible] there [illegible] Travis [illegible] years [illegible]

[illegible] boy. [illegible] was more interested in playing [illegible] and dressing up. Dad tried to [illegible] but he wasn't interested.

LL: How did you rebel against sports?

K: Travis would set in the outfield during [illegible] pick flowers with his glove on his head.

LL: That's a great clue that the game holds no excitement for you. Your mother left when you were young. What effect did that have?

K: Travis being the oldest of three had to grow up fast and be mother hen. Dad was a single parent and he needed my help. I really didn't mind taking on those duties. Then at the age of ten dad remarried and a few years later my sister Leigh-Ann arrived. She is a spitting image of Travis, they act so much alike. During that time Travis came to the realization that he wanted kids of his own one day and that he wanted to name his daughter Kennidi.

LL: So your name was bubbling around while you were still being a boy. Some folks name themselves early and others pick a name the day they first go out the door en femme. But, let's move on. The high school years, always a trying time for anyone, must have been particularly hard.

K: Well, as a freshman in high school, Travis realized something that changed his life forever. He had the opportunity to go out of state for a theater convention for the International Thespian Society, in Lincoln, Nebraska. While there he met and saw so many other types of people that were so different than what he had ever seen in his life. The people he met changed his life by opening his mind and [illegible] what he really was. Travis found [illegible] there. He realized that he was [illegible] his feelings for boys were opened [illegible] had been called a fag, [illegible] in the halls of his [illegible] it really [illegible]

[illegible] really [illegible] till they [illegible] normal con- [illegible] have been [illegible] for you to [illegible] that you were like other people.

K: Yes, but back at home I started to go into a depression. Travis felt out of place and he wasn't happy living a lie. This painful time made me think of suicide, because I didn't know how

to explain these issues to my family. I thought that I was better off not here.

LL: How did you deal with that? It's a sad thing but often gay and TG kids do take their own lives.

K: It was love of writing and acting that pulled me through and finally, I decided to slowly tell my friends and family. Within a year Travis had opened the doors for future gay people to be open and honest about themselves at their own school. Things had changed, people changed and I was ready to leave a mark on Waller.

LL: That's great. It takes a lot of courage to come out in a small town.

K: People have to accept people for *who* they are and not *what* they are. Travis set a goal to prove to people that he was the same person he had always been, nothing changed.

LL: Were there problems taking that path?

K: Going through high school my brother couldn't deal with Travis' sexuality and the peer pressure at the school so he moved to another school. At that time we didn't have the best relationship but years later we've grown to be the best of friends.

Kennidi with Nova Starr

LL: Graduation time always brings big changes in a young life. How did your graduation affect you?

K: By the end of senior year I had more and more friends and a lot of younger people admired me for being honest about who I was. I was actually popular. Graduation was a good stepping-stone. Travis was accepted to a great college for theater and was ready to set out in the real world. Living at home wasn't working. Dad and I didn't get along and I couldn't live under his roof anymore. One day I walked away from it all without telling a soul. I had been communicating with my mother again and asked to move in with her. I had always longed for my mother and now it was time to actually get to know her and find a relationship with her. I've built an honest and loving relationship with my mother and she's an important figure in my life.

LL: When did you make the step from gay theater student to fabulous Kennidi H. Monroe?

K: Shortly after leaving my father's house Kennidi was born. Only a few months later I was asked to enter the teen pageant Miss Gay Teen USA that was owned by the Gay Universe Pageantry. I got myself together and won Miss Gay Teen USA, and then went on to Miss Gay Teen Universe and captured that title.

LL: I know there's a lot we're missing here about how you got yourself to the point that you could win pageants. You must have spent hours of preparation. How did you feel when you won the titles?

K: It was the greatest feeling in the world. I had made it! Being Miss Gay Teen Universe gave me the chance to give back to gay youth by telling my story to gay youth groups and letting gay teens know it's all right to be what you want to be, whether you want to be a woman, a drag queen, a TS, a CD, or just a femme guy.

LL: Have you had any role models or mentors in the world of female impersonation?

K: I met a wonderful female impersonator and transgendered person by the name of Roxanne Collins who helped me start getting FI work in the Houston area.

LL: You started doing shows in clubs. How did that go?

K: With a lot of work and dedication I made a name for myself. A really big help was getting a drag mother, Miss Raven St. James. She helped me with fashion and makeup and learning all the rules to becoming a wonderful entertainer.

LL: That is a big step forward. It really helps to have someone who knows the ropes and can help you do the necessary things right the first time. I think we can see her affect in your photos.

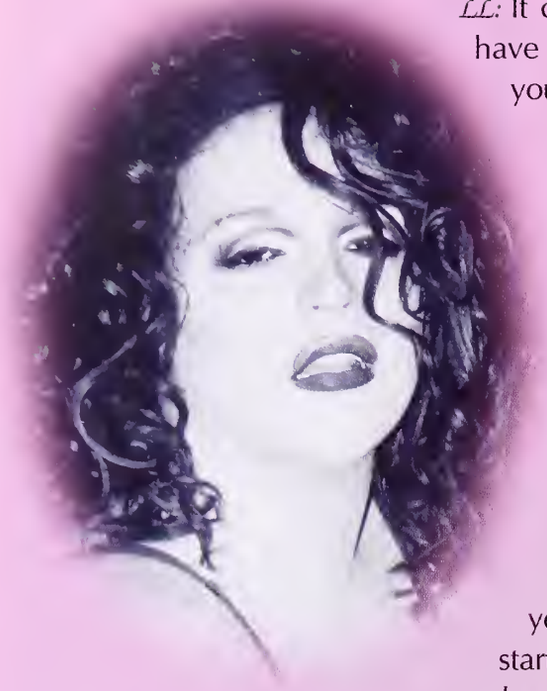
K: Yes, people said, "It was like overnight Kennidi changed". Roxanne and Raven were both great.

LL: So what are your greatest accomplishments to date?

K: It's really hard to pick one. I captured the titles of Miss Gay Mid South Universe, Miss Galveston Continental, and Miss Merry Christmas. I just loved to perform and do charity functions that I was offered because of my titles. In November 2003 I graduated from the Aveda Institute for cosmetology and was offered a job in Lombard, Illinois, at Tambray Lantz Salon, an Aveda Concept Salon. So, I've left Texas and now reside on the north side of Chicago.

LL: And your move to Chicago brought another big change in your life.

K: For the past year I've has been going through gender transition, living and working as Kennidi. I love that I can finally be the person I wanted to always be. But it took many of years to come to this conclusion. In the past I always told people that I didn't think I had the mentality of most TGs, but in a way I do. I was always supposed to be a girl, I just never suppressed it like many others do. I used to hide those thoughts because being from such a small town I really had never seen a TG in my life so I was happy being a femme gay man. And years of dressing and doing shows confused me because I loved the part of Kennidi so much. That's why now I tell girls, dress for a few years before you decide to transition, because its not an easy road.



LL: It certainly isn't. You have to be very sure of yourself.

K: I have been lucky, but I have also been unlucky! Take your time and see if this is what you want and do it right! Don't do it half assed! I have been on hormones for two years but in May I started seeing doctors and getting on the real deal. My skin has changed and my look has... its amazing what a pill can do to someone. But I do have to say there are a lot of emotions that come out of it. Make sure you're ready for the pain and happiness of being who you want to be.

LL: How is your transition accepted at your workplace?

K: I'm a big influence in the salon and they are now offering services to the transgender and gay communities. They are open and accepting of the idea and offer image consulting, coaching, makeovers, wig styling, full body waxing, facials, stress relieving treatments, hair cuts and color—all with Aveda products derived from plants and flowers, an all natural atmosphere. With this small environment you can feel comfortable being you.

LL: You've stopped doing shows in recent years but you still have theatrical aspirations. What's next for Kennidi H. Monroe?

K: In July of 2005 I hope that one of my biggest dreams will come true. I want to present a pageant, Miss Teen Mars International. This pageant is a dream that I've been putting together for years and now it's coming to life. We're looking for girls that are 16-20 who are interested in competing in a positive pageant for the gay youth of America.

LL: Any men in your life at the moment?

K: I had a boyfriend a while back but we broke up. I haven't had that many dates because men in Chicago are funny. They see a pretty lady and are afraid to talk, they feel someone like me is too intimidating. I recently went on a date with a guy who blew me

Kennidi with Roxanne Collins

away, but I am not going to jump to conclusions because when I do that they turn out to be bad, or not working, and trust me I don't want to do that right now. I always say just be patient, good things come to those who wait, and things happen for a reason! I feel I'm just weeding out the bad guys and that the right man will come along. I think the higher being knows I want to fall in love again and is just waiting till I am ready to find Mr. Right.

LL: Sounds like the situation of most young women today. Any other final words for our readers?

K: I greatly respect my admirers and fans, and through my website (http://www.kennidihmonroe.com) I hope to help others and show the world that not all TS women are prostitutes. A lot of girls have jobs and careers. I have lot's of dreams and aspirations. In 2005 I'm going to enter Miss Continental and I'm looking for sponsors to help with that journey and with my own pageant.

LL: Thanks so much for being with us today.

K: Thanks again for inviting me.

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Glamour Bits

Amanda Richards

Glamour is hard work. It's not just fabulous makeup, and gorgeous, sexy outfits. It takes a lot of not-so-glamorous work to maintain a beautiful feminine presentation. I don't know how many times I've been asked the question, what is the most important thing a girl can do to present a feminine persona. Without fail, my answer to that question is, moisturize, moisturize, moisturize.

When you see a beautiful woman, she's got a great shape, fabulous hair, eyes and lips to die for, and without fail, soft, luxuriant skin. While it's true that women are naturally more prone to soft smooth skin than the male of the species, it is also true that they work very hard to maintain that delicate exterior. For those of us on the male side of female, that hard work is even more important. It's a tough world out there. The ozone layer is shrinking. We're surrounded by environmental pollutants. For many of us, our eating habits are counterproductive, too. All of these things can contribute to dry, dull looking skin.

When clients come to me for makeup consultations, whether they are male or female, I can do many things to enhance their natural beauty. Unfortunately, a lifetime of neglect for the well being of their skin is just something that can't be covered up with a layer of makeup.

There is a multi billion dollar industry devoted to skin care, and youth preservation. Products are introduced at a dizzying rate. Phrases like "dramatically different", "revolutionary", "amazing", "revitalizing", "skin firming", "rejuvenating", "energizing", "skin-clearing" and "dermatologist recommended" are used to catch your attention. Just for fun I went through some of the fashion and beauty magazines that I subscribe to, and pulled the various ingredients that are being touted as saviors for our aging skin.

Here's a partial list of what I found in one month's worth of magazines:

Vitamin E, Aloe, Retinol, Alpha-hydroxy, Q10, Natural Active Soy, Copper, Ceramide ingredients, Elastium, Pure Vitamin C, Avobenzone Parsol, water binding agents, Shea Butter, salicylic acid, malic acid (it's from pineapples!), collagen, hyaluronic acid, red wine extracts, glutathione (it's a natural peptide!), SPF, targeted Cell Vector technology, Aluminum Oxide Crystals, Biosaccharide Complex, micro-moisture complex, micro-dermabrasion, microbead, vitamin rich botanicals, etc., etc., etc..

Unless you've got a Ph.D. in chemistry, and probably even if you do have one that is a daunting list. How do you go through all of these products and decide which one is right for you. Skin care and makeup are my business, and I honestly don't know which way to go most of the time. What I do know is that you need to do something. I'm not going to recommend specific products here. It would be foolish of me to try, for the reasons stated above. What I do have is some recommendations on your daily personal regimen.

★Use a cleanser specifically designed for the purpose when cleaning your face. There is a difference.

★At least two times a week, use an exfoliating product on your face. It will help slough off dead skin cells, and also help you avoid ingrown hairs that can develop from the extra close shaves we give ourselves when dressing.

★Once a week, use a facial mask. There are hundreds of different kinds, all of which are designed to work on different skin types and conditions.

★Use a buff puff, or as Ironhead Heyward called them, a lather builder, when you bathe. It will exfoliate your skin, and if you are shaving your arms and legs and any other part of your body, it will help you avoid ingrown hairs.

★After bathing, preferably while your skin is still a little damp, moisturize. Use a separate moisturizer, or combination of moisturizers on your face and neck. Then use a body moisturizer on the rest of your body.

★If at all possible, use moisturizers that have an SPF factor of 15 or higher. If your moisturizing products do not have an SPF factor, then use a separate sunscreen product. This is necessary even in the winter. Exposure to the sun is damaging to your skin. This is sound advice coming from a fair haired girl who just had 30 pre-cancerous lesions frozen off of her arms and legs this summer. Ouch, that stings! If you need to tan, use an artificial tanner.

It's not necessary to go to the department store cosmetics counters, and pay hundreds of dollars to get the products you need. There are lots of products on your drug store and supermarket shelves that will do the trick. No matter where you go, it's going to be a trial and error process. You may not find the right product for you initially, but to do nothing is a terrible waste of beautiful skin.

If you're interested in trying to figure out all of the different ingredients, and their properties, Paula Begoun has a good reference book out called "Don't Go To The Cosmetics Counter Without Me." I believe it's in the 6th or 7th edition now. There are product reviews and tons of ingredient definitions in the back. She also has a website called www.cosmeticscop.com . The site has lots of information, and she also sells her own product line there.

Most of us only get occasional opportunities to be our glamorous selves. Make the most of those times by taking care of yourself each and every day. The results of your diligence will show through in a more beautiful you.

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by Amanda Richards

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How is It Possible to Go from the Closet to the Cover?

Your first option might be to offer sexual favors to the entire staff of LadyLike. It was how Erin B. teasingly said was the way to the mass of depositions she obtained. So who knows?

Option two would be to work harder than you've worked in your life. Five plus years ago, when Candy was born she was chained fast to the closet. She looked awful, and had almost no knowledge of how or what was involved in the field in which she was embarking. She had to decide where she wanted to go, and how in the world could she get there. I choose this route.

Step one will mean a very supportive wife or SO who will aid the process. Or it means being alone with no support system, but absolute freedom. There has to be freedom with time and money otherwise the venture is lost. There is so much to learn and so much to buy. Unfortunately, when you are alone a great deal of both time and money will be wasted. It is not unlike taking up golf with no one to help. You can never get it right with out some professional help.

Step two will be an evaluation of what you have to work with. This will always be a part of dressing so start doing it early. If you want to be on a cover or just look as well as possible take a critical look at your body. You will most likely have to lose weight, and do a lot of toning. I lost 30 pounds, and adjusted my work out regimen. You may have a beautiful face but the body of a potato won't get you on a cover. You must have a good facsimile of the female body, that is to say curves. No matter how they are achieved, they have to be there. You are representing a distinct segment of the transgendered community. You must be a challenge and/or an inspiration to others. You have to show real testicular mass in what you are willing to do. When I encountered Amanda Richards and Morgan Stevens I told both of them they were an inspiration. They made me want to work at it. No, to really work at it, and not to give up.

Girls have valleys and peaks. Boys do not have them. You will have to become skilled at corsets and/or padding. You must be small where girls are small and bulge where they bulge. You will have to have professional help to do it right the first time. There are those who specialize in these areas and this magazine has advertising from the very best. There is nothing sorrier than a cheap corset. The first one I bought was inexpensive. I got is all laced up and had an attack of gas... took out every vertical seam in that sucker. You either build up your hips or you shrink your waist. I take in my waist. I can take almost 4 inches off my waist. I use fanny pads that come in a panty. I exercise every day, but you can not build up your butt. Mine is tight, but not large enough to look good. You've read about my cleavage, and I work on that every day. It has taken years to perfect a technique that is satisfying. I had to do it all on my own, but I'll help anyone who asks.

Legs are truly important if you want the package that is needed for a cover shot. They, too, take constant exercise. They have to be tight and have nice curves. How badly do you want them? Legs along with cleavage are the epitome of the sexy female form. You are a boy which means you have to work very hard. They are not going to put boys on the cover.

Body hair is a killer for most. Many wives will not let shaving the whole body be a part of their masculine hubby's bag of tricks. If you can't show skin you are at a decided disadvantage. You can try to compensate, but it will be an uphill battle. Being alone I shave everything from my ears down every morning in the tub. I love doing it. I get out of the tub and

use a good moisturizer. I do the moisturizer again after I work out prior to going to bed. Men don't know squat about skin care but it is critical to showing skin and looking like a girl.

Ironically, the place on which we direct the most effort, our face, is the place we are most often less than girl like. Get professional help with make-up—get every make over you can find. Each time you will learn more until you find what's best for your face. Yet, even here you are always learning and experimenting. It's like golf again, bad habits do not go away. Practice, practice and practice; but do not depend on the mirror to help you. Mirrors will lie. I'm on my fourth digital camera. Try it, take pictures. You'll see honestly what works and what doesn't. Look at girls in catalogs and use them for ideas in makeup and how to pose. If you look great and can't present it, you don't have a snowballs chance.

Wigs require an expert also. They can do so much for you or ruin what might have been good. You can not go by what your heart says. The long black thing you simply must have may look terrible on you. Get help, and then try all sorts of different looks with them. You almost can't hurt a wig. They don't have to cost $100. to look good on you. But for Heaven's sake, don't buy one and just plop it down on your head. Have it styled.

Clothing also requires a lot of work. What can you wear that does the most for who you want to project? I love showing off my body and have lots of club clothes that are low cut and short. I can pull off that sort of look, but you may not be able to. Again, pictures will tell you realistically what is working and what isn't. You need to wear things that will disguise body flaws. What really good features do you have and how can you accentuate them? If you want to be on a cover then you will have to look like a cover girl. You do not have to be perfect, but you do have to be utterly feminine.

Step three in being a cover girl begins between the ears. Do I honestly know that I look good? Do I present myself with total self confidence? This also means enough willingness to unashamedly promote yourself. If you don't think you belong on a cover neither will anyone else. I very honestly, worried the *LadyLike* staff to death. If I wasn't convinced I belonged there I was wasting my time and theirs. The girls at *LadyLike* are very sharp. They know their demographics. What goes into their well-done publication must be a person with whom readers can identify, and/or be drawn to explore. This means she has to look good and be totally honest. They are also putting themselves on the line with every publication. Their credibility rests in the choices they make.

After half a century of literally despising myself it was the love and the help of many people that changed my life. You need contact with people who will be honest and want to help you improve. I looked awful when I started to explore who Candy was. I made a firm commitment to myself that I would be all that I could be. I have worked harder at this than any physical thing in my life. I am convinced that Candy can look better tomorrow than she did today. Honey, if I could be a cover girl so can you. But, you must work your little butt off to make it a reality. Remember, if you aren't working out on the edge then you are only taking up space.

Love, Candy

Kym Richards has informed us that she has limited quantities of back issues of her magazine Cross-Talk for sale. If you're interested in rounding out your collection, contact her directly.

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Lady Like

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Reality Check

Hola, my little potato pancakes! This issue I am going to hold forth on common sense. As far back as Colonial times, at least, folks were going on about common sense. Now-just like back then-common sense isn't all that common. The phrase is supposed to imply that just by looking at the situation any rational human being would see that there's only one logical course of action. And it wouldn't take a department of philosophy to debate it for days, an average Jo (or Angela) would swiftly see what needed to be done. But the key word here is "rational".

In the world of crossdressing there are many times when common sense would seem to dictate how the crossdresser should act. "Show up at my daughter's wedding in a mother of the bride dress? Great idea. It's about time she knew about my hobby." Not too rational. The problem is that many times, probably most of the time for some, the act of crossdressing pushes them out of the realm of logic and reason (goodbye Mister Spock) and into the land of fuzzy thinking. Dressing up is a high for most of us. (I only say for most of us since there are those few who claim it just "calms me down". Could that be because when they're not crossdressed they're holding everything in tighter than a size 32 corset on a size 42 body?) Dressing gets your juices flowing, adrenaline starts pumping, whites seem whiter, the sky is bluer, you seem more beautiful. I'm saying it alters your brain chemistry and, like The Shadow, clouds your mind.

"Give us examples!" you cry. Well, from my own experience I can tell you that when I develop a fixation on getting a particular pair of shoes (in 1999 it was these really cool red boots. Just last week it was a pair of Steve Madden slingbacks with metal stiletto heels) I will stop at nothing! Give me that shoe! I spend money I don't have, I drive to every department store and shoe outlet in the tri-state region (Hey! It makes me happy) and I spend hours online browsing through shoe websites. (Oh yeah, there are shoe websites but you just finish reading this before you go off surfing.) Rational? Nope, definitely exhibiting a single mindedness of purpose rivaled only by George W. Bush's insistence that we really, really had to invade Iraq and we're not leaving now, damnit.

But, I digress. The shoe fixation I suffer from is mild compared to some CDs who have let common sense flit away. We all know someone, if it's not us, who has a whole room full of women's clothes. Once a few years back a Renaissance member passed away and her children contacted Renaissance to say that it was their father's wish that Renaissance sell everything and split the money with the kids. When they showed up at the meeting with the truck and started carrying in box after box it was a little overwhelming. That's the kind of thing we tend to do. It would be impossible for many of us to ever wear all the clothes we have collected even if we dressed every day. With part time dressing schedules it's really impossible. Common sense would say, buy a few nice, classic pieces that you can wear for years and pick up one or two trendy items. Get rid of the trendy things after a few wearings cause next year they will be so last year, and take good care of your classic stuff. But, we don't listen to that common sense advice when we compulsively shop till we drop.

Speaking of shopping, how many of you have bought something that didn't fit and just threw it into the closet? The old C. S. would say, "if the durn thing don't fit you should get your money back."

But the fuzzy thinking CD says to themselves that a return to the scene of the crime will definitely draw attention. Everyone in the store will know that that guy bought that dress for himself, and there's the humiliation of having them realize he doesn't know his size. Horrors! Wake up call: Get the money back!

Our problem is not that we're crossdressers, it's that often we act like idiots because of what crossdressing does to us. A friend of mine was teaching a night class at a major university in Philadelphia. While waiting for the elevator she spotted a lady, who appeared to be a man in a dress, also waiting for the elevator. Being a friendly person she smiled, said hi, and then held the elevator door for the CD. Instead of smiling back and saying thanks. The CD kept looking away from my friendly pal and mumbled something about meeting someone in the lobby instead of taking the ride. My pal called me to ask if she had done anything wrong. She was sorry if she had offended or scared the CD. It's the CD who should apologize.

Listening to her paranoia, fueled by adrenaline, she gave a really bad impression of crossdressers in general. It's a good thing that my friend has other CD pals. If she had just been a regular woman who knew no other CDs she might have thought, "Boy those dress wearin' guys are weird."

So, use some common sense girls. Would a real woman go out walking around the neighborhood at 3 a.m.? No. We do because our impaired reasoning tells

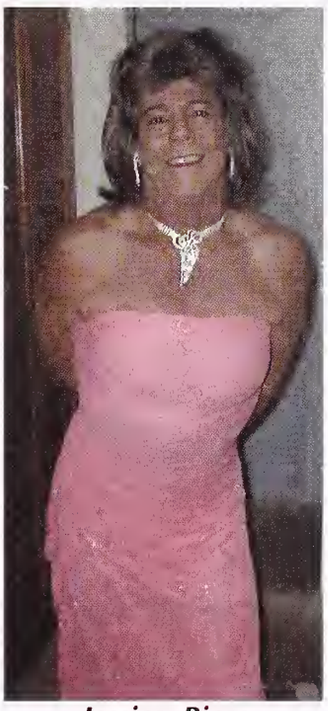
us that no one who could make fun of us will be around then. Of course it doesn't mention that the only people who might be around then are probably the types we really don't want to meet, crooks or cops. Would a real 55 year old woman go to the mall on a Saturday afternoon in four inch stilettos and a cheek revealing miniskirt? OK, so some of them do that. But they're usually not any more attractive than a CD in the same outfit. And they're usually not close to seven feet tall. In both cases there is something at work that has clouded judgment and said that it's OK, in the case of the real woman, to dress like she did when she was 20, and in the case of the crossdresser like he would have dressed if he was crossdressing at 20.

So, enjoy your crossdressing but go into it with your common sense intact. If you do decide to wear a wild outfit to the mall don't do it thinking that everyone there will see the hot young babe you see when you look into the mirror. She's a product of your fevered imagination. (Ignore this part if you are a young, hot CD of 22 who really looks good in four inch stilettos and a micro-mini. Oh, and send me your email address if you fit that description.) They will see a middle aged man in a bad wig and a miniskirt teetering through the mall on four inch spikes. Someone may be inclined to make fun of you. If they do, know why it happened and accept it as the down part of life if you want the high of wearing that outfit to the mall. Or use common sense, dress to fit in at the mall and save the wild outfit for night clubs where you see that sort of thing all the time.

If you remain rational about your dressing and how it fits into your life you can have a lot more fun in the long run. OK, you can go look for those shoe websites now.

MIRROR MIRROR

Andrea Baker



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Central America
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Susan Randall

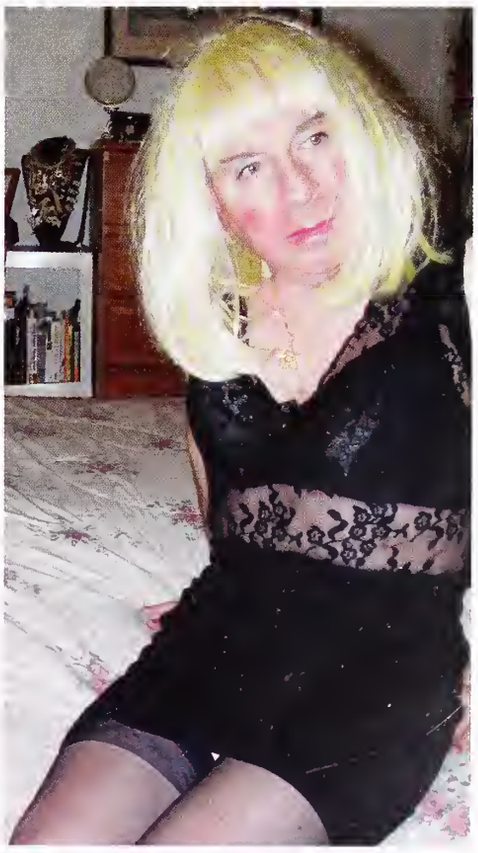

Photo by George Lan

Macho Men En Femme - New "Reality" Show This Month on TBS

If you don't have TBS on your cable system—it's time to order the Dish! The latest entry in the crowded reality show lineup (strange name for shows that are more contrived than an 18th century French farce—but that's another article) debuts on cable channel **TBS** on Tuesday, October 12th. It's called ***He's A Lady*** and it was produced by the same production company (*Full Circle Entertainment)* that produces ***Big Brother*** and ***Fear Factor***. Coincidentally *Full Circle* was also responsible for the crossdressing feature film ***Sorority Boys***. Could there be some conspiracy to put men in dresses at that company? Hummm...

The "reality" premise of ***He's A Lady*** is what happens when you take 11 macho guys who have applied be on a show called *All American Man* (where they had been led to believe they would be competing in grueling physical challenges) and tell them that their actual challenge is to stop acting like macho men and work very hard at being demure ladies. What would happen if there was any reality here? Most likely a producer or two would get punched out and the whole team would take a walk. But, in true reality show fashion the plot is thickened with a very large cash prize. What red blooded American dude wouldn't agree to a full body wax and wearing women's clothes 24/7 for the chance to win $250,000? (Heck, we'd do it for $25,000, but then again our blood's a bit pink.) With that kind of prize money any fella could reclaim his manliness no matter how far he went to the femme side.

The eleven contestants were separated from their families and taken to "The Doll House," a beautifully decorated dwelling designed to help them get in touch with their femininity. (Some guys have all the luck.) There they were madeover, schooled in the feminine arts and given girlie challenges. Each week there's a new task to perform on the road to feminine triumph. First up is the most obvious, learning how to

behave like a lady, followed by going out in public to find out how convincing they are. Then things get serious. The new women go through training on how to be a supermodel (girl who looses the most weight wins!) and the traditional female assignment of planning a real wedding and then being asked to serve as the bridesmaids.The last task before the final show is completing a multi-tasking challenge back in their hometowns where the guys must remain in their feminine characters in front of their family and friends. If you see a man in a dress being followed around by a camera crew and a group of laughing macho guys in your hometown it's probably one of the girls.

The show climaxes with, what else, a beauty contest that will determine who is The Lady who take home the quarter million bucks. We think that the girls in the back row of the accompanying photo have the best chance based on looks alone to take the prize. The poor lady on the couch has not let the sitting like a lady lessons sink in. Please girlfriend, we don't need to know the color of your panties.

In order to win the girls have to compete in all the usual pageant stuff and answer the question, "What, as a lady, have you learned about being a man?"

The judges for all their efforts will be: **Morgan Fairchild** (*The Seduction*), **John Salley** (*The Best Damn Sports Show Period*) and **Debbie Matenopoulos** (*Good Day Live*). The host of the whole shebang is **Tony Frassrand** from *House Detective*.

The series is sponsored by **SC Johnson**, which, in addition to product integration, receives tagged tune-in spots, on-air billboards, online exposure on the show's microsite and logo placement in print ads. **SC Johnson** products, such as *Edge Shaving Gel, Ziploc* and *Oust,* will be creatively incorporated into the weekly competitions. Of course the ladies will need a lot of shaving gel to get through the competition and *Ziploc* bags are so handy to store your makeup and things but what will they use the *Oust* air freshener for? Perhaps to get rid of the lingering odor of cigars, Nascar and the NFL? We'll just have to tune in on the 12th to find out. Another question, will the entertainment value of the show be based on the fun to be had from juxtaposing manly dudes with ladylike tasks and attire or will is the show actually concerned about the lessons on the difference between that sexes that its final question asks? Only time will tell. In any event ***LadyLike*** magazine would like to wish all the contestants good luck and any of the ladies are welcome to a complimentary subscription to LL if they find that they enjoy being a girl.

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Letters

Another Unforgettable Night

Dear LL,

In all the times of my dressing as Renee I've only had two really traumatic experiences. The first one I told about was in issue #53 of *LadyLike*. I will now relate a more recent one.

It all began on a very chilly day in November, the day of our monthly Iowa Artistry support group meeting. We hold them at motel in Iowa City and it's always the second Saturday of the month. I commenced getting ready early in the afternoon because I have to try on at least four different outfits before I finally decide on one. Then I have to go through the tedious process of applying make-up. I don't know about anybody else but this takes me a very long time in order to do the best I can to look good for the rest of the group. I pass very easily when I walk through the lobby of the motel on my way to the meeting room, but it takes me along time to apply it. Next comes the task of choosing the color nail polish I want to use. After this is done, it's time to get into the outfit I picked out to wear earlier. That day I had decided on a long green nylon dress with white strappy sandals. I gave myself one final going over in the floor length mirror and decided I was ready. By this time it was starting to get dark out. (I had previously filled the tank up with gas so I was really ready]. My wife and I left town on the interstate. I always drive within the speed limit, especially when I'm Renee, because I don't want to have to explain anything to the long arm of the law.

Our trip started out as usual. It was dark already, so I had my headlights on. When we were about twelve miles out of town, all of a sudden my wife screamed just as I saw the head of a deer directly in front of my right headlight. It happened so fast I couldn't stop right away and I heard the deer as it went scraping along the right side of the car. I stopped abruptly as I pulled off to the shoulder of the road. My wife and I both got out to survey the damage done. There was a very dark ditch on the side of the road so we couldn't even see if the deer was hurt or dead. I was shaking like a leaf and totally confused by what had happened.

So the first thing I did was go up onto the side of the road to see if anybody would stop to investigate what the trouble was. The cars just kept whizzing by not even hesitating. After a few minutes it hit me what I was wearing. I guess I was lucky that nobody wanted to aid a damsel in distress. I saw that the whole right side of the car was dented in, with the chrome hanging off the side door. We got back into the car to figure out what should do. Since we hadn't gone far out of town we decided to go home and make the necessary phone calls from there.

My first call was to the company I have my car insurance with. I was told to get three estimates the next day on the damages. My next call was to the police department to report the incident. I couldn't tell them the exact location of the accident, only a ballpark figure of where we'd been. They said it was dark out, they couldn't do anything about it. Also we didn't know if the deer was still out there. My next call was to the motel where the meeting was at. I got hold of one of the members and told her what had happened and that we wouldn't be able to make it.

Besides I was too shaken up to get back on the highway again that night.

The next day, I went and got my estimates of the damage and it came to about $4,000. My car looked so bad I just wanted to cry! I still couldn't believe that nobody stopped on the highway, even though I had my flashers on. Of course I might have had a lot of explaining to do and of course, I would have had my wife do all the talking... it just happened so fast!

I don't ever recommend going deer hunting with a car. We have since made many uneventful trips down to Iowa city.

Renee Miller

Renee! Oh, I feel for ya honey. I hit a deer—actually she ran right into the front left corner of my car, bounced along the side and then disappeared into the darkness. That was only $1600 though. And, thank goodness I was on my way home and not on my way out. Everybody, be careful out there! Deer who are envious of our glamour will try to stop us with suicide missions.

Looking For Other Texas T Girls

Dear JoAnn & Angela,

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to *LadyLike*. I have also enclosed a few pictures for the Lingerie Issue. Oh, I hope I am not too late to be included in that edition! I just real-

ized that my subscription must have expired with issue #58. Have I missed any? I certainly hope not for I find your wonderful magazine very special. I do so look forward to each and every publication. It is a breath of fresh air to the stagnant Bible thumping atmosphere of south central Texas. Where being all dressed up and no place to go is a fact of life, alas!

I especially enjoy the Mirror -Mirror section. All the beautiful ladies make me want to try even harder with my transformation. I am delighted to see you expand its coverage. In so many ways I identify with Jane Martin's provocative stories. I so look forward to her articles. The Letters portion always intrigues me. The wide cross section of our sisters who share personal feelings in their letters is both extremely appealing and encouraging.

I would be delighted if you publish my note and even more pleased to correspond with other T girls near and far. It would be nice to develop a special friendship to break the restricting environment that surrounds me here in the midst of redneck land!

Keep up the terrific work.

Joan

P. 0. Box 311992

New Braunfels, Texas 78131-4992

Now darlin', ya all should read the Profile in this issue. Miss Kennidi is a small town Texas girl who's now making it big up Chicago way. Let her be your inspiration.

Lingerie Fan

Dear Angela,

Hello Hon! I wanted to congratulate you on the new and improved "*Ladylike*" magazine; I did not think you could improve on perfection, but you certainly have! I adore it! I also wanted to tell you "thank you" for printing my photos in your lovely magazine. It was so exciting to be seen alongside the other gorgeous girls! Thank you, thank you! Your readers are also very kind to take the time to write me

I have enclosed several photos that I hope you will consider for future issues of Ladylike. I also was very excited to hear you are planning a special "Lingerie" issue! I am sending some of my favorite photos of myself in my prettiest and sexiest lingerie for your approval as well. I cannot wait to see it and I am sure everyone else is anxious as well!

Thank you again, Angela, for such a lovely magazine.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Kane

Box 557

Amherst OH 44001-0557

sylversmaid@yahoo-com

Taking It Slow

Dear LadyLike,

In my last letter I expressed the relief and the exhilaration of at last coming out to my wife—baring my soul and telling her of my need to be Elizabeth. Like many other CD's, I was carried along with that first flush of enthusiasm and euphoria, almost quite literally jumping out of the closet at her with both heels, to borrow an expression from a close CD friend. The inevitable backlash followed—tears, confusion, bewilderment, pain. Your advice was to go slow, allow your wife to adjust and acclimate and you couldn't have been more right; you were right on the money.

I would say this to CDs who find themselves in a similar situation: be kind, be patient, be reassuring,

make it plain that she is not being displaced by some "weird" and "curious" compulsion. Tell her that

you love her, and mean it; tell her that you will always remain the man in her life, after all, she's known you as a man and a husband for many, many years. Your's is not an easy assignment. Recognize that your wife has needs too. Respect them and the bond of love, trust and respect for each other will grow stronger.

I'm including a few snapshots of Liz taken at a friend's house. You're probably saying to yourself, "I wish she would smile more." Unhappily, I don't have pearly white teeth, that all important feature of today's beauty standards. So, I'm vain, I'm a woman, after all.

Affectionately,
Elizabeth Hulbeck
PO Box 1731
Auburn, NY 13021

We're not saying it to ouselves—We're telling the world! Ladies, smile and look friendly. This is the 21st century ! There are thousands of ways to whiten your teeth. There's everything from home treatments and toothpastes to procedures your dentist can do. And you don't have to be a CD to want white teeth since they've marketed it to everybody. Old, tobacco chewing truck drivers are getting their teeth whitened. And, if you just send us a smiling picture we'll make sure your teeth are white—we've got the right photo software.

Tutti Frutti Oh Rooti!

Dear Angela,

We of the transgender community suffer many unique hardships. However, I feel that we find balance by the rewards of crossdressing, if we choose to take advantage

of them. The greatest highs come from dressing, going out in public, and just living your life the way you choose. I convey the feeling I receive from going out to my closeted friends when any opportunity arises. But, I don't want to put another pressure on their shoulders or have them feel like I'm beating a dead horse.

"*LadyLike*" has earned a great deal of respect in our community. Please continue to use your influence to bring our reluctant sisters out of their closets, motel rooms, attics and bomb shelters. They need the fresh air,

Getting out and living the life, for me, is every opportunity I get. Whether going to the grocery store, movies, or out to dinner in my home town. Vacations are no exception. On a recent trip to Las Vegas we had dinner at fine restaurants, walked the casinos, lost $6.50, and even met Little Richard. The pictures I have enclosed were taken at the Riviera Casino where Little Richard is actually a performing impersonator.

Give it a try girls, live your dreams. Time does seem to pass quickly. But please, if you go to Las Vegas, Little Richard is mine.

Love to all,
Kimberly Autumn Thomas

Great balls of fire, girl! You're right. The more you get out en femme the more comfortable you get and the more comfortable you are relating to people from your femme space the more they treat you like a normal person. Little Richard will even pose with you for a photo. Remember, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself!

...continued on page 30

Lingerie MIRROR

Michelle Hart

Roberta
#3637

R.S
P.O. Box
Dearborn
4812

Candy

Jane Martin
P.O. Box 26691
Wauwatosa, WI
53226

Marilyn Fox
P.O. Box 21
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14031

Shayron Jefferson
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Cheryl Kane
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J.B.
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MIRROR Lingerie

Lingerie MIRROR

Marilyn Fox
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Clarence, NY 14031

Beverly
#3903

Donna
NJ
#2242

Barbara Roberts
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Delaware N Hudson
P.O. Box 4408
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Angela Foxx

Jerri Lee
327 Granite Mt. Rd.
Butte, MT 59701

Lingerie MIRROR MIRROR

JoAnn...mmmine

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4067 Hardwick St.
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90712

Cena

J.D. Merch
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Austin, TX
78768

beverlypeters@ziplip.com
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Letters

An Earnest Submission

Dear LL,

I thoroughly enjoy reading *LadyLike* magazine. It provides a much needed forum for our TV sphere of influence. Your magazine includes many beneficial aspects of our

community; editorials, reference guides, letter from contributors, all play an intricate part in keeping the TV community updated with pertinent information.

In addition, the photos and their letters are great aids for correspondence with other members of our community. It is with this spirit that I would enjoy submitting photos of myself for possible publication in your magazine. Thank you for your contribution and allow me to submit mine.

Thank you so much,
Stacy Dumas
PO Box 852
Norwood, MA 02062

Stace! Baby! No need to make a formal request. Just send in them pictures. All who wish to share their beauty with our readers are welcome.

Just a general note for all photo contributors, lighting! Take Stacy's photo as an example. Her skirt is lite brightly and her face is lost in the shadows. We can do a lot with photo software but seriously girls, lighting is key to a good picture. Other letters this issue are just using the flash and that is giving us dark backgrounds and washed out foregrounds. We know it's hard to get your beauty together and then get technical and think about where to put the lights but good lighting (and a smile) will make the photo better for all.

She Loves Fru Fru

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

I came across your wonderful publication a few times in the past year and really enjoyed it. Enclosed is a check for a year subscription.

I'm sending a photo along in hopes that it will find its way into your lingerie issue (*Michelle's pic is on page 24*). Like many other CDs I really enjoy dressing in most delicate and feminine lingerie. I would be delighted to hear from other CDs for correspondence and meetings, especially anyone that has an affinity for silky nylon, chiffon gowns, panties, slips and very sheer stockings.

Michelle Hart
1810-A York Road, PMB #298
Lutherville, MD 21093

A Grainy Southern Belle

Hello LadyLike,

A friend of mine told me I should write you. My name is Terry Davis and I live in Anderson, South Carolina. I am 40 years old, single, and still looking for the right man. Anyone interested in calling

or writing me—please do! Thank you,

Terry Davis
PO Box 1766
Anderson, SC 29626
864.375.9620

Well thank your friend for giving us the chance to see your southern belle loveliness. But, as we said before we need light to see you by!

Your photo is so dark I hope our layout department can get it to reproduce well enough. When you don't have a lot of light, as in this case, the photo gets grainy, and how can a lady find herself a man if her face is grainy? I ask ya. I hope you'll send us more photos Miss Davis and do them in sunlight or better yet, go to a photographer who can light you properly while you just look lovely.

He's A Leg Man

Dear LadyLike,

I am an admirer of CDs. I am 44 years young. I do not like to crossdress myself but I would love to have some friends who would like a man like me who would treat them like a lady. I love the way a CD's legs look, especially in pantyhose as I think crossdressers have the most beautiful legs. It would be great to have a CD friend with whom I could meet every once in awhile, watch movies together and be their friend. It is hard for me to meet any here in Indiana but if anyone wants a new friend I will be happy to write to them. I hope you include this in your letters section.

Thank you for your great work. I just wish it was monthly instead of every quarter. I enclose a respectful kiss to all the beautiful ladies in your publication.

An admirer,
R.B.C.
PO Box 2253
Bloomington, IN 47402
euroleg2000@yahoo.com

Have I got a girl for you! Quick, read the letter above yours.

No Bush!

Dear JoAnn,

I read your column in LL #58. I consider myself a Conservative Republican and am also a CD. I do by no means agree with everything the Neo Cons say. Right now I am strongly opposing the proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage and civil unions. I think it has a long way to go. Sixty seven Senators must support it or it is dead in its tracks. I have been writing and calling Senator Spector. I think Santorum is a lost cause.

I have not seen many jobs created by President Bush, like he says he has done. I do not know if we would have (it) any better under Kerry.

Right now and since 9/11 I feel there are some things which take priority over gay rights and gay marriage. The first among these is national security. I support the war in Iraq, even though it is hard on some families.

I belong to the Renaissance LSV Chapter in Harrisburg (Pa.). I also belong to the Log Cabin Republicans which is an organization of gay, bi, lesbian and transgender Republicans. Their philosophy is basically conservative.

I do not believe that President Bush personally believes all the garbage spouted by Neo cons. He is supporting it now because he wants their votes.

Thank you for your time.

Cordially yours,
Sue Ellen Smith
PO Box 3156
York, PA 17402

Slightly Confused...

Dear Jeri,

I wrote to you with some photos last month and wanted to share my new look with you. I hope you like it. Please share my address and any photo with your lovely T girl subscribers. I would love to correspond with them.

Love always,
Toni
POB 2533
Daly City, CA 94017.

Well Terri, err, Tina... no, no, it's Toni! Right. I don't know who Jeri is but JoAnn and I (Angela) are always happy to share someone's new look. You might want to not put that white stuff around your eyes. Nice gams though.

They Got Married in A Fever—Seattle Actually

Hello,

We would like to submit thes four wedding photos to your magazine. Hopefully you will print them. We got married on August 16, 2003 in Seattle, Washington. We had thirty three in attendance.

We would very much like to

know in which issue this will be printed so we can notify the participants of the wedding. They would be most interested and probably all would buy a copy of your magazine.

Thank you so much! We are proud to be featured in your wonderful magazine.

Maureen and Joan

Well ladies, at least one of them will make it in to this issue. It's up to Lady Astra as to how many of them show up. I'll tell her about the possibility of selling thirty three copies of LL and perhaps that incentive will get her to include all four shots.

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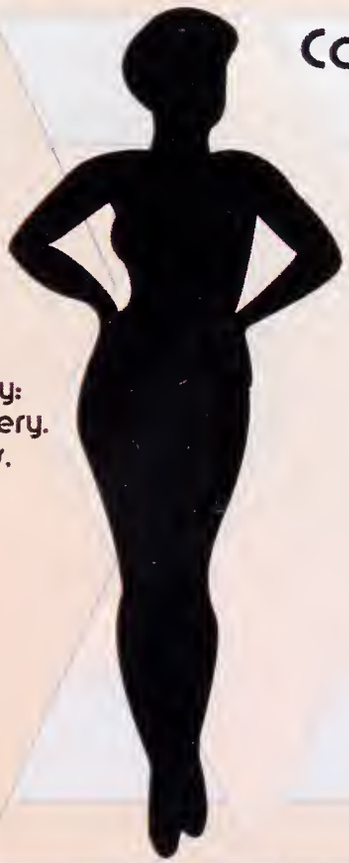

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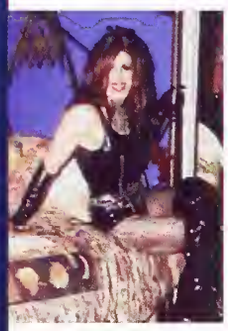

The water may drain right to left, dinner here may commonly start at 10:30 or later, but one thing remains common between ***New York City*** and ***Buenos Aires:*** Trannys! Though here, as in much of South America, they are referred to as *travesti*.

Kena and I headed out into the night in search of a tranny club, a place they called their own. ***Palacio***, our first stop, was an amazing club: 100-foot ceilings above a lighted dance floor, beautiful accoutrements, and two levels of bars and seating. It was hot, sexy, and happening and could easily rival anything in Manhattan. What it wasn't? A tranny bar. Perhaps on Friday or Sunday (gay night) the travesti come out to play here, but tonight, "nada." After a few more clubs on our list I felt we were getting close. But, I wasn't looking for just a place where a few trannys would show up. I was looking for a club where gay boys, girls and whoever else wandered in were in the minority.

At ***Scalabrini Ortiz 1721*** in ***Palermo***, a neighborhood northwest of "El Centro," we found a little doorway with a black light and no sign— "that's encouraging," I thought. Just inside the outer door, **Victoria** met us in the hallway, and I knew we hit pay dirt. Though my Spanish is a little weak, when I said, "Yo soy una periodista de Nueve York," she understood immediately. The words "photo-op" are universal and she quickly jumped into pose.

Aldo, the owner met us at the door and invited us inside to have a look around and meet some of the girls, like **Tatiana**, who performed that night—and quite well too. Without an invite by the owner entry is 5 pesos (equivalent to $1.75 USD). He told us to feel free to take photos, "as long as you ask the people first." The men, big surprise, said no. OK, you're right, that makes two things that remain common between the north and south.

The bar was nice enough, with just enough grit in the air to know that there were working girls on the prowl. There was a nice stage with a small runway, couches, a nice sized bar, and plenty of tables and chairs set back away from the stage for intimate "conversing." Mixed drinks were fifteen pesos. For those

that still don't understand the 3:1 exchange rate that's $5.00 US.

Considering we were strangers, and I a gringo to boot, the girls were slow to mingle. But **Kena**, a Colombian who spoke fluent Spanish, chatted away and before long we were all bosom buddies and having a great time. Even **Vicki** (a knockout blonde with a body worth … I forgot to ask), who refused to let us take a photo of her face, did pose for a shot from the back, sat and chatted a while. Of course, she had one eye scanning the room for potential suitors at all times.

Here as in ***NYC***, trannys are attracted to cameras like moths to a flame (you're right, that's three things). **Martanna**, a tall blonde strutted over and forcefully said, "please don't take my photo." **Fabiana**, a transsexual activist (who I will be interviewing at length soon) quickly smiled and assured her, "the photo wasn't of you dear, it was of me." **Martanna** thought about that for a moment, and then abruptly said, "don't just sit there come take a photo of me too!" How could I argue with that reasoning?

Confusion (what a great name) can be called a true Tranny bar. This night, during the winter holiday season (the seasons are exactly opposite ***New York City***) the place wasn't all that crowded. But, **Aldo** assures me that when I return in the next two weeks it will be. After he urged me to come back—twisting my arm—I told him "OK, you talked me into it." So, I'll let you girls know what happens next time.

Like ***New York, Los Angeles, Boston*** and everywhere else I've been, the girls here are as varied as the wardrobes. Needing a closing line for this article I asked **Fabiana** what she thought trans girls of the world shared in common.

"We live the truth everyday. We can't and don't hide who we are."

Till next time girls, get out – wherever you are, be happy and always... think pretty!

Brianna Austin, a free-lance writer, is a contributing writer at Transgender Forum, LadyLike Magazine, and is a Girls Club Reporter. Email: Brianna@BriannaAustin.Com

Current Queens

by Sarah Thomas

Victoria Stiles

"She's my girl. She's my boy. She's got parts everyone can enjoy. She's got more, she's got less. She's got her manhood tucked in her dress"

-Stephen Lynch, HermAphrodite

I like things BIG! Big hair, big makeup, big... well... big things. The more fantastic, sparkly, scandalous, or freaky—the better it is in my book. As my friends know, I'm a huge fan of the rock group KISS and if any of you have ever seen them live you will agree that their show is totally over the top. Four seven-foot tall leather-clad guys in platform boots and makeup spitting blood and smashing things (yes, I mean a KISS concert, not a TG support group meeting) definitely qualifies as larger than life. If you ever met me, Sarah Thomas (a.k.a. The Fabulous Miss Cherry Strudel) you know that I don't go for passability. As a matter of fact the biggest influence on my Drag Persona (besides Margaret Thatcher) is KISS. Why am I telling you this (other than to gratuitously write about myself)? It's because our CURRENT QUEEN for this issue is the totally larger-than-life Victoria Stiles.

Victoria is all about entertainment and while she is a relative newbie to the drag circuit, Miss Stiles is already turning more than a few heads. Her Diva Review is entering its second year and she gaining popularity, and accolades in the pageant world. Diva Review itself it a drag show with a difference. Billed as the first "family oriented" drag show it's held in a smoke-free, alcohol-free venue. It even begins at 8:00 p.m., virtually the crack of dawn for most queens. In Victoria's own words, Diva Review is a theatrical production company that caters to a variety of communities including GLBT and straight audiences. The key to Diva Review, Says Victoria, is its elegance, integrity, and style. Although Victoria herself hails from the Milltown-New Brunswick, New Jersey area she performs in venues all around New York City.

ST: Victoria, it's a real pleasure to talk to you today. I know you're very busy promoting Diva Review and preparing for a big pageant.

VS: Yes, Miss Pennsylvania at Large... and I'm still waiting for my shoes! Size 14 eight–inch platforms. I have to get them custom made and they take about four weeks to arrive.

ST: Whew, I thought I had problems with size 11! Tell us a little more about Miss Pennsylvania at Large.

VS: Well, it's for big girls. You have to weigh at least 225 pounds. I'm 226. Two hundred twenty six pounds of glitter, rhinestones, tiaras, and glamour! Plus, I tap dance.

ST: At least 225 pounds... we better hope Michael Moore never puts on a dress. I'll bet you'll get a lot of queens doing Linda Rondstadt now. Did I hear you say tap dance?

VS: Sure, I've been tap dancing for years and I incorporate it into Victoria's show. I'll be tap dancing for Miss Pennsylvania at Large and Miss New

Jersey. It's something you just don't see other queens do and I think it adds to my stage presence.

ST: At 226 pounds and close to seven feet with heels, honey you are the stage presence. Tell us more about you when you're not on stage. For instance, do you think of yourself as transgendered?

VS: Honestly, no. Drag is my job... my living. I do drag five days a week and it's very hard work. I live as a man... a 21 year old single, cute, gay man if anyone is interested... and single. I never crossdressed for sex. Although I've had many offers from "straight" guys who want to bed Victoria. Straight guys are funny. After a few beers they're ready to go after anything in a dress. Quite gullible. They'd be surprised after they got through seven layers of pantyhose to find my hairy legs! No, sorry to break the news but Victoria is all man in bed (laughs).

ST: So you never had surgery...implants or anything?

VS: No, I use duct tape and padding. I could never envision myself as a tittie-queen. I know some girls who have had implants only to have them removed at a later time. No, I like the old queens...the true illusionists. Even performers like Frank Marino and RuPaul, beautiful, beautiful in drag but they live as men.

ST: You're a relative newbie in the drag world. How did you get your start?

VS: Actually, it started when I was involved with theater. I always thought that the woman's costumes were so much more glamorous and there was much more room for performance as a glamour queen. Within a year of deciding to put together an act I won two titles, Miss Buddy's Pub and Miss Monmouth County. My act is different. Sometimes I'll ride a scooter, as I said I tap dance, I'll do Anna Nicole Smith singing "My heart Belongs to Daddy,"... stuff like that.

ST: What about drag role models, or female role models?

VS: Not really. I watch backstage and try to pick up tricks of the trade. I do have my Drag Mother, Lady Marisa of Eatontown, New Jersey. We'll sit for "Drag Therapy," watching hours of pageant videos and essentially deconstructing performances. I never copy other peoples stuff but I try to take a bit of everything and hybridize.

ST: As they say, "There is nothing new under the sun." Finally, in this, the most vitriol-filled political environment in at least four years do you have any message you'd like to convey to our readers?

VS: Why, yes, thank you. Gay men should be more willing to date drag-queens! Whenever a guy hears that I'm a professional queen he disappears. In my mind that's discrimination!

ST: Profound. Someone needs to make an inflammatory documentary about that.

So, dear readers, if you have an opportunity to see Victoria Stiles in person, don't be shy. She's warm, open, charming and ever-willing to share makeup secrets. Also, you can get more info at VitoriaStilesProduction@yahoo.com.

Sarah Thomas is the crazed Libertarian lead guitarist of the first psychedelic all-drag mariachi band, Los Nutsacks and the author of the soon-to be-released, "The Hitch-hiker's Guide to Asian Hand-Release Spas."

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THE DRAB DECADES: THE UNTOLD STORY

ROXANNE VAN NESS

Welcome To The Drab Decades.

The year was 1972. I'd turned 25. I hadn't crossdressed in 54 months. In fact, I no longer felt tempted to do so! I'd reverted to my old self—perhaps even a slightly improved version! I had overcome! Hallelujah!

Baffled, I wondered why I'd worn women's clothing in the first place. After all, nothing could rival the charms of a genuine damsel! (Bear with me here.)

Thus, like countless other young males of the species my thoughts shifted to the prospect of companionship, i.e., to marriage. Time to begin dating in earnest!

Footnote: I would fall in love only twice - in the autumn of 1976 (Kathy) and early 1979 (Bonnie). During this period, a third individual (Lucy) would express her romantic feelings for me.(Oh what a tangled web we weave!) However, none of these relationships will be covered here. Rather, you'll be treated to a fast-paced, cursory review of the so-called "fun outings". (Methinks I'm gonna barf.)

Meet the person to whom we'll refer as "Claire". (Her actual name was Claire.) Tall, very slender. (Okay, skinny.) Long, brown hair. Stylish dresser. (She wielded exquisite taste!) Recreational artist extraordinaire. She and I had functioned as furniture-showroom coworkers in 1972-73. Despite her quitting and relocating to Vancouver we corresponded regularly—expanding on already splendid rapport. (She'd once confided to fellow employees that I was "a nice guy". While it implied no intimate notions on her part—or mine—the statement was quite the endorsement!)

By 1976 my British Columbia pen pal had returned to Montreal. In late 1977 (after getting together several times) we agreed to schedule a cluster of follow-up events, a church formal, a second dance soiree, a movie, and lunch at a fancy restaurant. Things looked promising!

Unfortunately, pending finalization of the proposed outings, Ms. Companion-in-Waiting phoned to say that the dancing double-header might not be such a good idea. You see, the fellow who'd moved in with her wouldn't understand! Incredulous, I queried, "You have a guy living with you?" Yep he'd accepted her offer only a few days earlier. Nevertheless, she clarified. lunch would be okay. Lunch was "different"! Well, without hesitation, I declared I saw no distinction and promptly canceled the whole enchilada! Case closed and good riddance. So much for my "nice guy" status.

I remained optimistic. My best years lay ahead of me and there existed plenty of nice, single gals out there. (Little did I realize that this inaugural phase would pretty much set the tone for my entire social life.)

Soon thereafter, I embarked on a dating spree. (Don't worry; I'll touch on selected highlights only. Sorry. Better make that lowlights.!)

Consider Sandy, the companion from Hell. (From LaSalle, anyway.) Divorced mother of two and all-around "fun-loving" person. So thoroughly feminist, she physically resisted my every attempt to lead her on the dance floor! Then, there was Cathy, who, at the start of a cozy candle lit dinner, exclaimed, "Is this going to take long? I have to be home by nine! Susan, who upon encountering friends during our date absolved me from further responsibility and ordered me to go home! Dovile? Claiming she felt uncomfortable with someone my age, she proceeded to date an hombre some ten years older! Gracie (a.k.a. "Amazing Grace") had the knack of reaching the point of exhaustion before arriving at any destination. What about Carol's temper tantrums? Erica's obsession with a television monitor? Dilma? Pyerr? Maria A.? Lorena? Elise? Francoise? Monique? Louise? Lala,? Enter one perennial partygoer/wizardess of wit/consummate spite girl! (Indeed. All in one porky, pompous package.)

1985. I'd organized a dinner-dance outing. "Fun-loving" Doreen was to be my partner. Other pairings included Achille-Patsy and Mark-Maria. Things looked promising!

Now, on the evening of said soiree, April 13th, Doreen advised me that she'd invited a married couple (friendly Franco and nasty Wendy to join us at the restaurant. Heck, I didn't mind. The more the merrier, wot? Not! Devious Do spent the entire one and a half hours standing up, talking sheer nonsense with hubby and wifey! That's correct; my "date" and I exchanged nary a word! The chair to my right sat conspicuously vacant from appetizer through dessert—occupied only long enough for you-know-who to wolf down ye olde victuals and rush back to her cherished guests! (Wow, demure and diplomatic.)

Afterwards, we original six (minus the weds) departed for the a Club, situated across the river. (No problemo. Both of the other dudes owned cars.)

For several hours, we rumbaed, waltzed, cha-chaed, swung like Fred and Ginger (Fred and Ethel? Fred and

Wilma?) whereupon the guys informed Doreen that it was "time to go"! (Excuse me? Mr. Team Leader—moi-meme—knew nothing of any supposed curfew!) Yes, Reen the Queen had unilaterally truncated the festivities. Aw, the poor girl felt "tired" on account the previous evening's hectic agenda!

Talk about adding insult to injury! Once chauffeured to her front door, Doreen uttered a grateful "Thanks, Mark." (Evidently, she'd forgotten who had paid for both food and entertainment.) What a fiasco! Nevertheless, I would try again. (Color me persistent.)

On November 30th, we traveled to Dorval's Aeroport Hilton for (what else?) dancing at the Jupiter Club! This time, I'd made certain to involve just the two of us—and that Doreen had gotten plenty of rest! (Mind you, the conversation at the restaurant—at least, my partner's end of it—had smacked of the evasive and nonsensical.) Leaving nothing to chance, I'd instructed my father to record the "Saturday Night at the Jupiter" radio broadcast from home. Things looked promising!

Unfortunately, I made two glaring tactical errors. (1) I told my companion about Dad's taping assignment. (Typically, she couldn't comprehend why.) (2) I excused myself and went to the little boys' room.

We went through the motions—even if my "better half" visibly lacked enthusiasm. I also noticed that the host for the evening (Gordon Courtenay) failed to approach for a chat- despite conversing with practically everyone else. Although it irked me somewhat, I wasn't terribly upset.

(Ed. Note: Ms. Van Ness failed to make it clear that she and her date would be at the club where the broadcast her father was taping originated.)

Suddenly, Golden Girl played her trump card! She felt it "best to call it a night" because (brace yourselves) she just had to go home to select an outfit for "tomorrow's date"! (Medoubted she truly had such a gala planned. Either way, trust me, any woman who wore a red shirt dress to play tennis needn't have feigned concern over haute couture.)

Arriving at the Henri-Bourassa subway station, we found buses to be few and far between. Ms. Popularity obviously expected me to hail a cab; yet I harbored no desire for additional expenses. (Gullible I may get on occasion, but never stupid!) I suggested we walk the final mile, and—to her bitter disappointment—we did. (Had we taken a taxi, I imagine she'd have thanked the driver for a lovely evening!)

Reluctantly escorting-the party pooper to her humble abode (a cramped converted garage, ideal for a cheapskate) I marched the three miles home another dud date had gone into the record books. Yippee.

Footnote. Remember how Mr. Courtenay had neglected to interview us? Well, I finally pieced the puzzle together. Years later, I heard the man state—on air—his unswerving policy of circulating to all tables and hobnobbing with every patron! I (Aha!) While I lingered in the washroom Dodo had probably asked Mr. C. not to come our way! Hence, his maintaining his distance! Merde!

Needless to say, I never asked the busty birdbrain out again. Even so, she would succeed in checkmating me afresh!

In the spring of 1986, my nemesis demonstrated absolute chutzpah by inviting me to partake of an evening of dining and dancing! By then she was going steady with John, an Englishman she'd hooked while vacationing in Scandinavia. (Yes, I sympathized with the poor sap. A glutton for punishment, I figured it might prove fun especially since I'd attend with someone else! I accepted! Things looked promising!

A week in advance, I asked Maria V. to accompany me—and she effervescently agreed! All right! However, over the course of the ensuing seven days, my phone remained eerily silent. Strange, I told myself, because a woman would usually call for details- ("Where are we going?" "How long will we stay?" "What should I wear?" etc..) I recall mentioning to my mother the nagging suspicion that I might conceivably be stood up.

March 29th. We all appeared in our finest regalia—yours truly sporting a snazzy blue three-piece suit. (Er, do I detect a collective yuck?) We'd arranged to meet after church, drive to Doreen's for supper, then boogie into the wee hours! All transpired according to schedule; everyone seemed in a gung ho mood—till, mere minutes prior to departure, up sauntered Maria to announce she couldn't come! (Bingo!) Apparently, she didn't feel well and opted not to honor her commitment "That's okay", reassured Mr. Nice Guy", "It's not your fault you're sick." "Well" she admitted, "I'm not exactly sick." (Double-bingo!) "Ask someone else", she proposed. (Here stood our group, on the brink of leaving, and she figured I could instantly corral a substitute?) Quickly, I flagged down Doreen, describing my quandary. "Why don't you invite somebody else?", she suggested; "How about Gracie?" "It's too late", I countered; "It wouldn't be fair to ask another person on the spur of the moment, anyway."

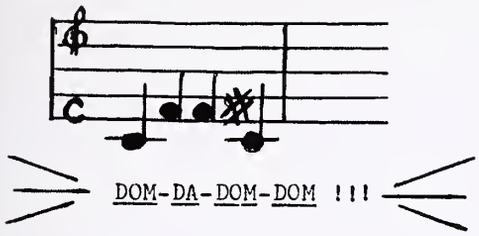
Scrambling for any semblance of damage control, I offered to tag along for the meal, then bow out graciously. (I perceived pronounced wincing on Dodo's face, and could sense the gears in her head spinning at the speed of light.) "No", she replied, "Fawzi and Nora also dropped out. The evening's canceled"

For courtesy's sake, I hung around for another hour. (Hmmm. A good number of stragglers continued to mill about. Furthermore, my erstwhile hostess seemed to be doing a great deal of hemming and hawing - not characteristic of her take-charge skills.)

Saying my goodbyes, I traveled homeward via downtown. All dressed up with no place to go (in the masculine sense), I decided to take in a movie - Disney's "Sleeping Beauty" - at the Imperial Theater. And, surprisingly, I enjoyed it! At least, I'd salvaged something from the disappointing turn of events. (Hey, when life hands you lemons...)

A week later, I expressed to Doreen

my regrets that her grand soiree had fizzled out. (Ready for this, readers?) "Oh! You know what?", she exclaimed ever so innocently. "We regrouped and went after all. I searched for you, but you'd already left!"



Bitch! And, undoubtedly, Maria had proven an integral cog in a well-oiled conspiracy ! A splendiferous ploy! To this day, I can't say whether a miraculously-healed" M.V. had rejoined the "born-again" flock or not. And, frankly Scarlett...

1987. In an unexpected twist of fate, this endless chain of frustrating experiences drove me to embrace transvestism a second time! How paradoxical that G. W. S. constituted the catalyst which rushed me over said gender-bending edge!

1990. Permission to wax a tad over analytical? Dutifully "Roxanne" rapidly stepped in to fill the vacuum - becoming the loyal "girlfriend" I'd never had. (No, this had nothing to do with her utilizing a vacuum cleaner. Get real!) "Rox" always showed up. She never criticized me. She appreciated my treating her like a lady. (Inhabiting no body of her own, she repeatedly borrowed, mine. Hey, cool, it was always returned in impeccably-groomed condition.) She wouldn't stoop to inviting another guy to move in. And she certainly didn't squeeze me out of innumerable social events! As for gobbling up meals? Er, she's working on it. (Nobody's perfect.)

I'd learned a valuable lesson - that "nice guys" truly did finish last. Still, now that I'd defected to the "enemy camp", could a "nice gal" fare any better? (I don't mean to brag but my legs easily outclassed Doreen's!) Things looked promising!

One TG's Effort To Understand

By Ginny

I have often wondered why I am a CD. I know there is a lady within and I love her and I know that she is me. In Paul DeKuif's book "The Male Hormone", he states that testosterone creates masculinity and a lack of testosterone creates a lack of masculinity. He says chemically all of us are both man and woman and that our bodies make both male and female hormones. It is the amount of each that makes us feel a female or male.

I have developed a chart I call my Femininity and Masculinity chart. I don't think there are any F-6 or M-6's. Where each of us fits in the chart has to be decided by the individual. I know I am near 0 or F-1. I have felt myself proceed to the left through the years. As a child I was probablly M-1 or M-2 when I used to dress and play with jewelry with a boy friend. As a young teenager my mother had roomers and one was a young lady. When I would come home from school I would put on her clothes. I loved the way they felt, I really liked soft and silky clothes. As I started maturing and the testosterone started flowing I probablly moved to M-5. World War II was on and at the tail end I went into the military. When I came out of the service I finished high school and college and got married. The lady within was complelty buried. I enjoyed giving my wife clothes for Christmas and birthdays. I loved picking them out and feeling the material. After children and grandchildren my testosterone started declining and I could feel myself moving left to around M-3. At this point I started wearing lingerie and skirts. As I moved to 0 I became complete, dress, slips, bra, panties, hose, heels or flats, wig, makeup, jewelry and a femme name—but in the closet. I feel myself moving to F-1 and into the female side.

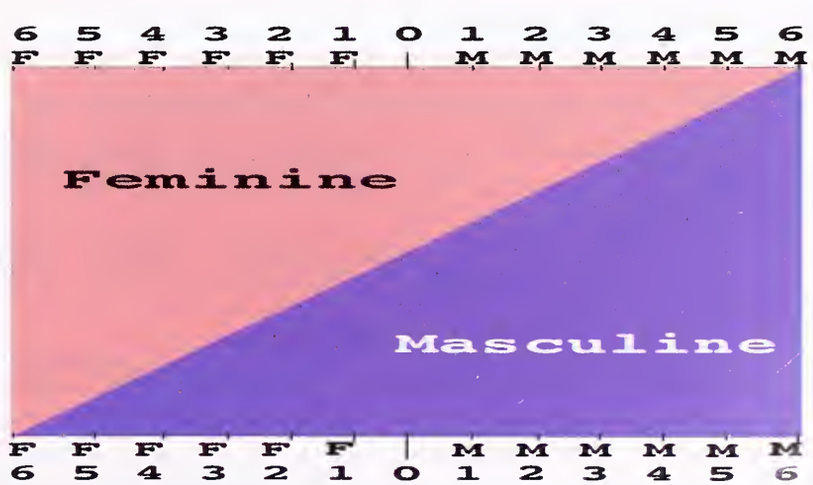
Michelle Kingsbury wrote an excellent paper "The Clothing Lens Effect". In it she describes being "merged" where you don't need to be dressed to feel the lady within. I have definitely merged.

Up to last year I went through all this by myself. I did not know there were wonderful magazines like *LadyLike* and that there were support groups. It has been enlightening but I wish I had known about it years ago. For years I felt like I was a weirdo. It is comforting to know there are thousands out there like me and there are many more who have a touch of femininity in them but do not express it.

GINNY'S FEMININITY-MASCULINITY CHART

Theoretically we are all androgynous, We all have male and female hormones in our blood which sometimes causes the physical and mental genders to be completely opposite. When the male proceeds to the left on the chart and reaches F4 or F 5 there isn't much he can do about it. He knows he is a she, but is physically a male. The female is the same way, when she reaches M4 or M5 she knows she is a he. The situation often leads to operations to change sex or living as a female with out the operation. Men in the M2, 3 or 4 area sometimes express their femininity by crossdressing. Others may completely suppress it. We see men now letting their hair grow long, wearing necklaces and bracelets without realizing that the feminine side is coming out. The same is for women, you see jeans, suits, short hair, tattoos, etc.. As long as you are in the blue area you are physically a male and in the pink area you are physically a female, but your mental gender is opposite. If the general public realized this, they would be more understanding.

Gosh, how I wish my own wife would understand.



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Ask Astra

Dear Lady Astra,

I saw your sorry state a few days ago, with nothing to write about. SOOooooo I have some questions for you that will probably cause you to do a lot of investigating and possibly take more than one issue, to give all the answers.

I have experimented with herbal hormones for about 3-4 months. I did indeed raise some extra chubbyness on my chest, over the already chubby chest, due to my overall chubbyness. The other thing that happened, was an increase in sensitivity in my breasts. Sometimes I would make a movement and get a 'shock' of tenderness to the touch and a slight itchy-ness. I loved those moments... I felt very girly!!

BUT, I want to know how much these herbs can go! That is the question!

OK! Second question. I have heard and seen adverts on the net, indicating that one can take a plastic cup (4-5 inches in diameter, and hookup to a suction pump and pull up the flesh into the cup and after a time have real flesh and blood boobs hanging out there, as big as you want!

I have seen a magazine some years ago that showed fairly large breasts on a 'T' which looked pretty good in the pictures.

Can you give us more insight on this method of breast enhancement?

I'm a real fan of your magazine right from the first a few years ago. Real Class!!

One last statement! You Look sooo cute in your photo, and Very passible, young and sweet!

I'll be holding my breath (so to speak) for September's issue.

Love & kisses,
Cheryl

Okay, Cheryl,

You sound so sincerely sweet that it's gonna be difficult for me to be my naturally nasty self.

Oh, who am I trying to kid...no, it's not.

First of all, it seems to me that you have answered your own question regarding herbs. You gained sesitivity and a bit of "chubbyness". That indicates to me that they work to a degree, but I think you should check out some of the information available online, particularly info that has been posted by people who have actually tried these things. Please remember that some herbal preparations can be just as dangerous as pharmaceuticals when taken incorrectly.

As to your second question...Ah jeez, (ouch-ouch-ouch) that just sounds nasty. Find someone else to ask.

Thanks for the compliment on the magazine, but I gotta tell you I'm a little worried. I don't think you're going to read my answer and you might go doing something stupid. 'Cause ya see, that ain't a picture of me in my last column. That's a picture of JoAnn Roberts. The publisher of this little mag. If you paid attention, you might have realized that. The note on her picture said "mine", not me. If you go back another issue and read my column you might have figured out I'm a g.g.

BTW, I don't need busywork. I'm perfectly content to print pictures of JoAnn if nobody has any questions.

Let your breath out now, sweetie, it's the October issue. You don't want to hurt yourself.

Hi Astra,

I just thought of another way to get larger breasts. But, I'm not sure that it can really be done.

Here it is: Most of us have a little (or more) extra fat on one's body. I'm wondering if a person were have LIPO.. done, and take some of the fat and be injected into the breast areas to enhance the breasts.

Thanks for your help,
Kissy Kissy, Cutie,
Cheryl

PS: Please do not reply! My wife would be "a little upset!"

Uh, Cheryl...don't you think she would be a bit more upset about the boob thing?

The lipo question is interesting. Ask a plastic sugeon and let me know.

Astra

Got a question? Ask Astra!
Send your questions to:

Lady Astra
c/o CDS
P.O. Box 491
Lionville, PA 19353-0491
or email: askastra@cdspub.com

North American Support Groups

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education, PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry ($40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212, [www.ifge.org]

Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine. Membership fee of $48 includes the monthly publication "Transgender Community News." Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit membership organization. [www.ren.org]

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. [jeftris@aol.com]

Alaska

Alaska T People , PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK 99567

Arizona

Transgendered Harmony , 8485 E McDonald Dr #298, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Alpha-Zeta (Tri-Ess) , PO Box 28363, Tempe, AZ 85285-8363

A Rose , PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ 85312-8108

Transgendered Harmony , PO Box 83927, Phoenix, AZ 85701

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance , 300 E Sixth St, Tucson, AZ 85705

Evolere Transgendered Foundation , 1830 E. Broadway Blvd. #124-269, Tucson, AZ 85719

California

Transgender Resource Center of Southern Calif. , 8350 Santa Monica Blvd. Ste 104A, W Hollywood, CA 90069

Alpha Chapter , 409 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. #320, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club , P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA 90703-3182

Gender Expressions , PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816

CHIC Crossdressers Heterosexual Intersocial Club , PO Box 17850, Long Beach, CA 90807

CD Social Group , PO Box 224, Montrose, CA 91021

PSGV Transgendered Support , 401 South Main St. Ste 104, Pomona, CA 91765

Neutral Corner , PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA 92159

San Diego TransFamily , PO Box 4735, San Diego, CA 92164

TG Alliance of Coachella Valley , PO Box 391, Thousand Palms, CA 92276

Born Free , PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517

LKO (Ladies Knight Out) , 3320 Chapman Ave. , Orange, CA 92869

Ventura Transgender Outreach, 3503 Arundell Circle Ste 3A, Ventura, CA 93003

Society for Second Self (Tri-Ess) , PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Access Point , PO Box 7180, Los Osos, CA 93402

TranzcentralCoast , P.O. Box 14146, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Trans-Action , 973 Market St. Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103

Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) , 127 Collingwood St, San Francisco, CA 94117

TGSF , PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Diablo Valley Girls , PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc. , PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816-2907

Transfolk , 115 Grand Ave, Oroville, CA 95965

Sigma Sigma Beta, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

Colorado

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, 1455 Ammons St., Ste 100", Lakewood, CO 80215-4993

Lambda Community Center , 149 W Oak, Ste 8, Ft Collins, CO 80524

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group , 1144 Clarmont, Pueblo, CO 81004-2808

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society , PO Box 163, Farmington, CT 06034

District of Columbia

Washington-Baltimore Alliance , PO Box 50724, Washington, D.C. 20091-0724

Delaware

Renaissance Delaware, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808

Florida

Emerald Coast/PANTRA , PO Box 1853, Pensacola, FL 32591

Trans Alliance of Gainesville , PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL 32614-3102

Phi Epislon Mu, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, FL 32790-3261

Evolve , 2351 S Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL 32806

Mu Beta Gamma Tri-Ess , PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL 33014

South Florida Gender Coalition , P.O. Box 670283, Coral Springs, FL 33067-9998

Animas , PO Box 420309, Miami, FL 33242

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches , 7600 s. Dixie Highway, W. Palm Beach, FL 33405

Tampa Bay Gender Alliance , 3708 Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33629

Starburst , PO Box 6822, Clearwater, FL 33756-6822

Georgia

Sigma Epsilon, PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA 30077-0272

Atlanta Gender Explorations , PO Box 160003, Atlanta, GA 30316

Hawaii

Hawaii TG Outreach , PO Box 8233, Honolulu, HI 96830

Iowa

Central Illinois Gender Assoc. , PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA 52733-1925

QCAD Group , PO Box 1534, Davenport, IA 52809

Idaho

Tri-States Transgender Group , PO Box 6691, Boise, ID 83707

Illinois

Chi, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Island Girls , PO Box 2306, Joliet, IL 60434

Chicago Gender Society , PO Box 66595, Chicago, IL 60666-0595

Central Illinois Gender Assoc (CIGA) , P.O. Box 3082, Champaign, IL 60826-3082

Indiana

IXE , PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46250

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368

Kansas

KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends) , PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Kentucky

Lexington Dress & Gender Alliance , PO Box 11471, Lexington, KY 40575

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance , PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836

Massachusetts

The Sunshine Club , PO Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035-0564

South Shore TransGender Network , PO Box 381, Avon, MA 02322

Tiffany Club of New England, PO Box 71, Waltham, MA 02454-0071

International Foundation for Gender Education , PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454-0229

Innvestments , PO Box 354, Sagamore, MA 02561-0354

Maryland

Chi Epsilon Sigma , PO Box 505, Brooklandville, MD 21022-0505

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore , 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Maine

Transsupport , PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101

Transcare 2000 , 75 Adams St. 2B, Gardiner, ME 04345

Maine Gender Resource & Support , PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME 04402-1894

Michigan

Crossroads , PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245

After Six , PO Box 126, Comstock Park, MI 49321

Lambda Mu, PO Box 246, Moline, MI 49335-0246

IME of Western Michigan , PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

Minnesota

Tau Epsilon Mu , PO Box 40126, St. paul, MN 55104

Gender Education Center , PO Box 1861, Maple Grove, MN 55311

Beta Gamma, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN 55408

City of Lakes Crossgender Community , PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation , PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117

TransSisters , 4004 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64110

Mississippi

Southern Belle Society , PO Box 3112, Gulfport, MS 39505

Montana

Western Montana GLBT Community Center , 615 Oak ST, Missoula, MT 59801

North Carolina

Triad Gender Association , PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC 27282-2264

Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA) , 112 Edwardia, Greensboro, NC 27409

Sigma Rho Delta Tri-Ess , PO Box 90141, Raleigh, NC 27675-0141

Kappa Beta, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC 28220-2101

Phoenix TG Support , PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC 28814

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance , PO Box 8076, Omaha, NE 68108

New Hampshire

Tri-Ess New England , PO Box 7681, Nashau, NH 03060-7681

New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu, PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ 07661-0001

New Jersey Support , PO Box 9378, Trenton, NJ 08650

Sigma Nu Rho, PO Box 9255, Trenton, NJ 08650

Epsilon Mu Gamma , PO Box 4, Three Bridges, NJ 08887

Nevada

Transgender Support and Advocacy, 2075 E Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV 89104

New York

Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center , 208 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011

CrossDressers International , 404 W 40th St #2, New York, NY 10018

Shades of Lavender , 502 Bergen St, Brooklyn, NY 11217

Long Island Trans Experience , PO Box 97, Setauket, NY 11733

TGIC , Box 14-B Harmony Mills, Cohoes, NY 12047

CNY TransMenace , 405 Howard St #1, Syracuse, NY 13203

Expressing Our Nature c/o Pride Community Center , PO Box 6608 745 N Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13217-6608

Buffalo Belles , PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

Rochester Transgender C/O Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 179 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

Ohio

Crystal Club , PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0287

Paradise Club , PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH 44129

Crossport , PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45201

Oregon

Northwest Gender Alliance , PO Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208

Rho Gamma , PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR 97527

Pennsylvania

TSG (Transsexual Support Group) 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Transpitt , PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Erie Sisters , 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA 16505

Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122

Renaissance - Lehigh Valley , PO Box 157, Trexlertown, PA 18087-0157

Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Ste 719, Wayne, PA 19087

Tennessee

Tennessee Vals , PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN 37209

Swans , PO Box 12701, Knoxville, TN 37912-2701

Mirror Image , PO Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-1052

Texas

Central Texas Transgender Society , 2900 West Anderson Lane Suite 127, Austin, TX 78757

Metroplex CD Club , PO Box 141924, Irving, TX 75014-1924

Nu Epsilon Tau , PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX 76094

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE) , c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX 77036

Tau Chi, 8800 Bellaire B2, Ste 104, Houston, TX 77036

Gulf Coast Transgender Community , PO Box 66643, Houston, TX 77266

Epsilon Tau, PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX 77358

Alpha Tau , PO Box 1398, Georgetown, TX 78627

Washington

Transgender Education Association , PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA 22215

Emerald City , PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center , 1812 E. Madison, Ste 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Bellingham Gender Group , PO Box 2004, Bellingham, WA 98227

Washington Gender Alliance , PO Box 2261, Bellingham, WA 98227

Wisconson

Gemini Gender Group , P.O.Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI 53214

Wisconsin TG Support Group , 4230 E. Towne Blvd. #193, Madison, WI 53704

CANADA

Alberta

Illusions Social Club, PO Box 2000, Calgary T2C-1B4, 403-486-9661,

Phi Sigma, Tri-Ess, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. S.E. T2C-1B4

British Columbia

Kootenays Support Group, Box 270, Rossland, V0G 1Y0, 250-362-5701,

Cornbury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B-3Z1, N/A,

Zenith Foundation, Box 46, 8415 Granville St., Vancouver, V6P 4Z9

Transcend Transgender Support & Education Society, PO Box 8673, Victoria, V8X 3S2, (250) 413-3220

Manitoba

Masquerade, c/o 832 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, R3M 0Y2

Ontario

Ottawa TS Discussion Group, PO Box 42067, RPO St Laurent, Ottawa K1K 4L8

Gender Metaphor, PO Box 27097, Ottawa, K1J 9L9

Chrysalis, 349A George St. N, Suite 206, Peterborough, K9H 3P9

Xpressions, PO Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, 416-410-6949, www.Xpressions.org

S.O.S. Club, 519 Church St, Toronto, M4Y 2C9, (416)-392-6874, webhome.idirect.com/~players

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Vanier, K1L-8E4, (819) 770-1945, www.geocities.com/West-Hollywood/9630/

Quebec

Action Santé: Travesti(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec, 1626 Rue St-Hubert, Montreal, (514) 847-0067,

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K-3B8

On My Mind

I came across a news item recently. David Reimer committed suicide. Most of you will not recognize his name. Mr. Reimer, named Bruce at birth, was at the center of a controversy that began 38 years ago when he was born with an identical twin brother. During the circumcision operation, doctors literally destroyed Bruce's penis. Reimer's parents were encouraged to raise Bruce as a girl by then-noted medical psychologist, John Money of the Johns Hopkins Medical Center. Money insisted that gender and sexual identity could be determined by nuturing the child as a female.

It didn't work. As detailed in a book by John Colapinto *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised A Girl*, Reimer was miserable in the female role. "She" didn't fit in with the other girls. "She" was isolated and a social outcast until at age 14 Reimer's parents told the truth about his upbringing.

Reimer changed his name to David and set about reclaiming his masculinity. He married and was stepfather to three children. For a time, he seemed to be okay.

But all was not okay. Recently Reimer lost his job, separated from his wife and suffered the death of his twin brother. Janet Reimer, David's mother, believes the devasting experiences of his childhood contributed to his suicide.

Why should we care about David Reimer's death? Partly because we raise medical "experts" to godhood only to learn they have feet of clay, and partly because it's a cautionary tale about the blind acceptance of transgender behavior, especially male-to-female transitions, as "good" or "beneficial".

At the IFGE convention in April, there was a couple with a young child attending the seminars and mingling with the attendees. The child was a male, not more than 8 or 9 years old, and was crossdressed. Most everyone attending murmured how wonderful these parents were allowing their child to explore "her" gender at such an early age.

Everyone except one. A person who has been around this community a long time approached the mother and asked a few innocuous questions about the child, like when did he start expressing a feminine gender role? The mother responded that the child was born with a feminine gender. "Hmmmm," puzzled our gender doyenne, "how do you know that?" Whereupon the mother scooped up the child and darted off. Every attempt to re-engage the mother in conversation failed as she assiduously avoided the questioner.

When this was relayed to me by the person asking the questions, red flags started waving and alarm bells rang in my head. Could this be the mother's wish and not the child's? Anyone heard of Munchhausen's Syndrome By Proxy?

If I were a parent with a gender conflicted child I would seek out information, too. I'd probably attend an IFGE convention if it were in my backyard. I'd also leave my child home. I'd be looking for information for me. I'd also probably have brought my child's therapist along.

I, too, wonder if that mother was trying to create a daughter for herself and how will that affect that little boy's life? We may never know... until it's too late.

A Little Politics...

NGLTF and HRC say the current version of ENDA must die. It started with Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Mr. Foreman wrote in early August of this year: "For many years, our community has debated the place of transgender people in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). The time for debate is over. The question must be called. ENDA must be amended to protect transgender people. If it is not, we all must walk away from it." That was a major position change from a major GLB political player. Mr. Foreman admits that a trans-inclusive ENDA is a political hot-potatoe, but he also says, "...make a bill trans-inclusive early on so that when it finally starts moving, the issue is behind you and can't be used as another excuse for inaction." And that's exactly what's been happening. GLB politicos have been saying that trans-inclusion would kill any chance ENDA has of passing.

The transgender community has been saying all along the ENDA has zero chance of passing as-is, so why not make it trans-inclusive now. Mr. Foreman seems to agree.

But what about the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)? The HRC is the driving force behind the present ENDA bill. Would they buy into Mr. Foreman's position? With a bit of prodding by transgender demonstrators during an HRC board meeting, the HRC did the right thing and announced they will "...only support ENDA if it is inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression." Tim Boggs, co-chair of the HRC Board, is quoted as saying, "Passage of ENDA is a brass ring for our community and we're making it clear that it must have the strongest teeth possible to protect everyone."

Well, it's about friggin' time! I've advocated a "scorched earth" policy against the present ENDA for some time now and many transgender activists agreed, while others cautioned a more conciliatory approach.

Now that we have that settled, what's next? If we want a t-inclusive ENDA to pass Congress, we need congressional representatives who are open-minded enough to see the worth in the bill. Vote your conscience in the next election.

Stay frosty! JoAnn Roberts

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